

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/130,593

Examiner

Sandra M. Nolan

Applicant(s)

GUST, HERBERT

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the responses dated 12 January 2004 and 24 March 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 August 1998 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20040324</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in the 24 March 2004 letter of Ms. Gudrun E. Hockett, Ph.D., pursuant to a USPTO e-mail of the same date.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification

On pages 1, 4, and 12, a hyphen [-] was inserted immediately after "poly" at the end of each line, that is:

- at page 1, line 16;
- at page 4, line 7; and
- at page 12, line 8.

On page 6, in line 17, "poly vinyl" was changed to read -- polyvinyl --.

In the Claims

In claims 1 and 3-5, a hyphen [-] has been inserted immediately after "poly" when it appears at the end of a line, that is:

- at claim 1, in line 6;
- at claim 3, in line 2;
- at claim 4, in line 1; and
- at claim 5, in line 1.

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Remarks

The changes made in the specification and claims correct a series of typographical errors.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
5. The formal requirement for a priority statement in the specification was made in error. As applicant pointed out on page 4, first paragraph of the 12 January 2004 response, no 35 USC 119 priority statement is required in the specification.
6. The amendments to the claims in the 12 January 2004 response obviated the objection to claims 1-16 for parenthetical references.
7. The sole base claim is claim 1, which can be summarized as follows:

Claim 1 covers a component comprising at least one support member having a first connecting portion and at least one part having a second connecting portion, wherein the second portion is connected to the first, wherein, for achieving a permanent adhesive connection between the portions, the second portion is comprised of polyfluorocarbon and a surface of the second portion is activated by plasma activation to form an activated surface for connecting the support member and the part, and wherein said activated surface is plasma-etched by a micro-sandblasting effect caused by plasma activation in a micro area.

8. The closest applicable prior art is Okumura et al (US 5,693,236), which teaches injection-molded plastic objects having a composite layer made by etching to deposit fluorocarbon polymers thereon. Okumura was applied in a 35 USC 103 rejection.

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Applicant's arguments on pages 2 through 8 of his 05 May 2003 response were deemed persuasive and this rejection was withdrawn.

9. In sum, there is no applicable prior art that teaches or suggests components having all of the features recited in claim 1.

10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sandra M. Nolan, whose telephone number is 571/272-1495. She can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm, Eastern Time. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, her supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached at 571/272-1498.

The fax number for patent application documents is 703/872-9306.



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